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NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Kevin Quinn 402-995-2419
Kevin.r.quinn@usace.army.mil

Corps of Engineers announces release plans for Jamestown, Pipestem Reservoirs

Jamestown, N.D. – Releases from Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs will remain at 1,800 cubic feet per second (cfs) longer than expected due to recent heavy rainfall in the basins upstream of the reservoirs. Earlier this summer, releases from the reservoirs were expected to fall below 1,800 cfs in July. But rainfall amounts of 5 to 8 inches above normal over the last 30 days have occurred in much of the James River and Pipestem Creek basins upstream of the reservoirs.

As a result of the increased rainfall and runoff, reservoir pool levels at both Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs have been increasing. Jamestown Reservoir is currently at a level of 1447.5, and is forecasted to peak in late August at a level of approximately 1450, which is 1.3 feet less than the previous peak this year of 1451.3 on May 1. Pipestem Reservoir is currently at a level of 1485.3, and is forecasted to peak in mid August at a level of approximately 1486, which is 0.8 feet less than the previous peak this year of 1486.8 on May 25. For calendar year 2011, the total annual flow volume at the James River at Jamestown stream gage is forecasted to be 660,000 acre-feet, which far exceeds the previous record volume of 530,000 acre-feet in 2009. When Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs peak in the next several weeks, there will be approximately 230,000 acre-feet of water in storage in the flood control zones of the reservoirs. Attached is a plot of historical annual flow volumes at the James River at Jamestown stream gage.

Currently, Jamestown Reservoir releases are 800 cfs and Pipestem Reservoir releases are 1,000 cfs, resulting in a combined release of 1,800 cfs. The Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation are currently contacting other agencies to coordinate optional plans for evacuation of flood control storage. Options being considered are 1) holding combined releases at the 1,800 cfs level and evacuating all flood control storage in the fall, 2) small increases in combined releases to a level that is near existing channel capacity and would not require construction of emergency levees, with an earlier evacuation of flood control storage in the fall, and 3) holding combined releases at 1,800 cfs, then reducing releases earlier in the fall along with evacuating some flood control storage with a winter release of approximately 100 to 300 cfs. The overall goal for the flood storage evacuation plan will be to set release rates at a level that minimizes impacts from high reservoir releases while at the same time provides for evacuation of all flood control storage in time for spring runoff in 2012.

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Omaha District 1616 Capitol Ave., Omaha, Neb. 68102

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If Option 1 is followed and combined releases are held at the 1,800 cfs, releases will remain at that level until mid- to late-October, then gradually reduced as the remainder of the flood control storage is evacuated. With average precipitation, all of the flood control storage in the reservoirs will be evacuated by mid- to late-November. Evacuation of flood control storage could take longer or reservoir releases could be increased based on the results of agency coordination or if abnormally high rainfall occurs.

Reservoir flood control releases from Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs began April 11 and have been at the 1800 cfs level since mid-April. The peak daily inflow into Jamestown Reservoir was 14,300 cfs on April 15 and the peak daily inflow into Pipestem Reservoir was 4,200 cfs on April 11. Without the dams in place, the peak discharge in Jamestown would have been approximately 16,000 cfs.

Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs are located along the James River and Pipestem Creek immediately north of Jamestown, N.D. Pipestem is a Corps project and Jamestown is a Bureau of Reclamation project that is regulated by the Corps when the reservoir is in the flood control zone.

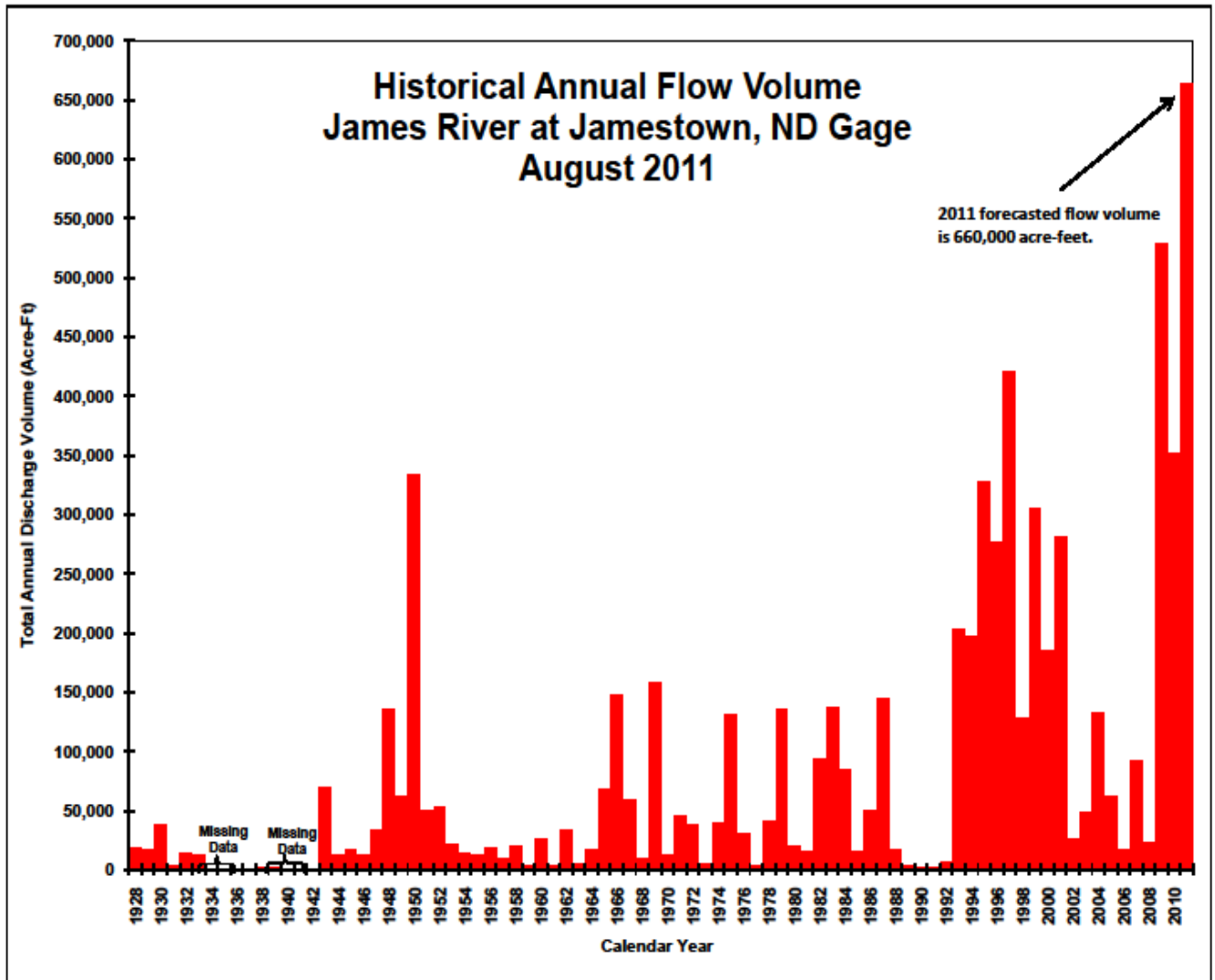
The Corps, Bureau of Reclamation and National Weather Service will continue to monitor rainfall and runoff conditions, and will provide updated forecasts and release plans as conditions change.

With the continued high releases from the reservoirs, residents along the James River downstream from Jamestown should continue to monitor flood forecasts by the National Weather Service.

Flood forecasts on the James River in North Dakota and South Dakota are available on the Missouri Basin River Forecasting Center website at <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mbRFC/>.

River stages on the James River in North Dakota and South Dakota are available on the U.S. Geological Survey Web site at <http://nd.water.usgs.gov/floodinfo/james.html>.

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